

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FINAL MEETING NOTES¹

Friday, May 20, 2005

**Casa Las Palmas
323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. • Santa Barbara, CA**

Note: Audio tape recordings of this Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member Russell Galipeau

US COAST GUARD

Alternate John Luzader

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone

Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate Kristine Barsky

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Alternate Leah Akins

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester [SAC Chair]

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

Alternate Scott Dunn

BUSINESS

Member Bill Spicer

Alternate Bill Agosta

CONSERVATION

Alternate Greg Helms

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Member Chris Hoeflinger

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Member Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Member Craig Taylor

Alternate Barbara LaCorte

RESEARCH

Alternate Dan Brumbaugh Ph.D.

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-1

Member Jim Knowlton

Alternate Phyllis Grifman

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-2

Member Eric Kett [SAC Secretary]

CHUMASH COMMUNITY

Member Ricardo Melendez

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley, Manager

¹ Adopted at the July 22, 2005 SAC Meeting.

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate Lyle Enriquez

NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

Alternate Gary Davis

U. S. COAST GUARD

Member Lt. Ronald Fien

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Alternate Ann Bull

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Marija Vojkovich

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Alternate Open Seat

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger
Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member Lauri Baker
Alternate Monica Baker

NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

Member Warren Glaser

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop [SAC Vice Chair]

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Alternate Jim Marshall

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Alternate Steve Roberson

RESEARCH

Member Robert Warner Ph.D.

PUBLIC AT-LARGE-2

Alternate Matt Lum

CHUMASH COMMUNITY

Alternate Paulette Cabugos

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Member Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent
Alternate Sean Morton, Management Plan
Coordinator

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown, Manager

Attendance

Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) attendance was good, with 18 of 21 voting seats represented throughout the day. However, several Advisory Council members and alternates arrived or departed early with no more than 16 seats being present at one time: Bill Agosta, Craig Taylor, and Russell Galipeau. Voting seats absent for the day were Tourism, NOAA Fisheries, and Ventura County. Public attendance peaked at approximately 12 individuals.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Dianne Meester, Acting Chair, presided over the meeting. Dianne acknowledged and thanked Advisory Council representatives who have moved on: MMS member Joan Barminsky, Coast Guard member Wade Russell, and Santa Barbara County alternate Jackie Campbell. Dianne introduced new SAC representatives who were in attendance: Leah Akins from the California Resources Agency serving as an alternate and replacing Melissa Miller-Henson, Dr. Ann Bull joining as the new MMS Seat alternate, Dr. Fred Piltz who has stepped up from the MMS alternate to the member position, replacing Joan Barminsky, and Ronald Fien as the new Coast

Guard member, replacing Wade Russell.

Jackie Campbell was acknowledged, thanked and presented with a picture/plaque from CINMS to recognize her six plus years of service on the Advisory Council. Jackie is no longer serving as the Santa Barbara County alternate because she is now serving as the Director of Community Development for the city of Carpinteria.

The March 18th draft SAC meeting notes were approved and adopted as final, subject to minor edits that had been previously provided by Linda Krop and one correction to the roll call section of the notes.

Chris Mobley highlighted several items in the Manager's Report (provided to all SAC members and the attending public), and also touched on the following items that were not in the report:

- This summer CINMS will be working with Donna Meyers, NMSP Regional Water Quality Coordinator, and Santa Barbara Channel Keeper to develop a small scale water quality monitoring pilot project.
- CINMS has been coordinating with Walt Schobel of Vandenberg Air Force Base to develop an agreement that would allow for the R/V Shearwater to patrol restricted marine areas near the base during launches.
- Notes from the March 1st Liquid Natural Gas educational forum are now available and were provided to the Council.
- Sarah Fangman (Sanctuary Research Coordinator) is on a six month rotation at the Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary (Savannah, GA) during which time she will work remotely on CINMS tasks for more than half of her time.
- CINMS has been working with NOAA's National Data Buoy Center to assess status of weather buoys in Santa Barbara Channel area and to offer vessel assistance for servicing buoys.

Council Member Announcements

Ricardo Melendez announced that he and Paulette Cabugos and are coordinating efforts with Jacklyn Kelly at CINMS to gather together a group of core Chumash people that could form a Chumash Working Group.

Greg Helms announced that the Ocean Film Festival is on Sunday, May 22. He also announced that there will be an fundraising event for the Environmental Defense Center held on June 5 at Nu Restaurant in Santa Barbara.

Dan Brumbaugh announced that the MPA Federal Advisory Committee met that week, and referred members to the MPA Center web site for more information.

Craig Taylor announced that the Sanctuary Education Team (SET) is in the process of developing a number of presentations about the Sanctuary for use by SAC members, SET members and others.

Eric Kett commented that over last few months there have been quite a few marine casualties. The sailing vessel *Irving Johnson* went aground outside Channel Islands Harbor. The dive boat *Conception* was stolen and on its way out of the harbor those running the *Conception* hit and

sunk a fishing vessel in Santa Barbara Harbor. The *Conception* then traveled up the coast and was run aground at Pt. Arguello. It was salvaged and is now completely stripped down and in dry dock at Ventura Harbor. Eric said he had many fond memories of the *Conception* and that it was a major user of Sanctuary waters. Eric also mentioned that the ocean water is cold right now and with it brings incredible sights in the kelp forests; the forests are incredibly alive at this time. Eric added that he is concerned about the local weather buoys and the operational problems they are facing. He suggested that perhaps Fred Piltz discuss this issue because one of the most viable buoys is supported by MMS and is scheduled for disestablishment. On another note, Eric mentioned that on June 15 at end of the breakwater at Santa Barbara Harbor there will be a special event recognizing the completion of a memorial honoring those lost at sea. The memorial was created through the efforts of three local community members and will give folks who've lost someone at sea a place to meet.

Jim Knowlton announced that Ocean Futures Society is co-producing an ocean television series with KQED that will air in Spring, 2006. Six one-hour high-definition shows will be presented including two hours on the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (potentially the 14th National Marine Sanctuary), two hours on the 13 National Marine Sanctuaries, one hour on sharks, and one hour on the Gray Whale Obstacle Course, a film about gray whale migration. Jim also brought for the council a stack of Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Choice guides that provide information on healthy choices about what to eat and what to try to avoid in regards to seafood. Jim also mentioned that there is an Ocean Film Festival on Sunday the 22nd of May at 6pm at UCSB, which Jim has a film in.

Kristine Barsky made several announcements. The Department of Fish and Game will be conducting Cooperative Research and Assessment of Nearshore Ecosystems (CRANE) surveys at Santa Rosa Island to fill gaps noted in a recent review of monitoring programs, the result being that a similar number of surveys will take place as compared to 2004. Kristine mentioned that the Department will also be doing aerial surveys of kelp coverage and will have 2003 and 2004 data worked up in a GIS. Additionally, a number of Remote Operated Vehicle cruises are coming up. The Department is also working with Hunter Lenihan and Chris Miller to develop collaborative monitoring programs at the Channel Islands. Kristine also mentioned that there is a new Marine Region Manager for the Department: Gary Stacey has taken the position of Patty Wolf as Marine Region Manager. Kristine reported that Gary has already started visiting every field office.

Leah Akins announced that on July 22 she will be attending a meeting in Long Beach of the California Biodiversity Council on ocean and coastal economics and market-based approaches. At that meeting there will also be discussion on the recent report on California's ocean economy. The report is not available yet but will be released soon.

Fred Piltz announced that Joan Barminsky, who has departed from the SAC, has moved up in the agency to Deputy Regional Manager, and that he will be taking her former position on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Fred also mentioned that Dr. Mark Pearson on staff at MMS passed away about a month ago and will be missed, and that he was an expert on marine mammals on our coast.

Scott Dunn made the comment that the local weather buoys are also very important to kayakers, and emphasized the need to have those buoys repaired. He also mentioned that he was out at the Channel Islands yesterday and the kelp is really taking off which is nice to see.

Chris Hoeflinger announced that the new fisherman's memorial in Ventura Harbor was just completed. It is a very interesting memorial enjoyed by all including children; it is located by Andrea's Restaurant. The memorial has been a work in progress for about 5 years. He also expressed support in every effort to fund the buoys in the channel; he recently had to rescue a gentleman who got blown offshore in kayak who was unable to check the wind. He commented that not just boaters need the buoy readings, kayakers as well because they are very susceptible to wind like the Santa Anas.

Rebecca Roth reported that the California Coastal Commission just had a meeting. She informed the council of an Energy Bill passed by the Senate that specifically gives back revenues to the states, but California would be precluded because of a moratorium on offshore oil development. The state has previously received over 10 million in funds in 2002. The Coastal Commission is tracking the issue and she will provide updates at future council meetings when information is available.

On that issue Leah Akins announced that at the last meeting of the Ocean Protection Council, the Council submitted a letter to Congress in opposition to any efforts to take away the California moratorium on offshore oil and gas leases.

Dianne Meester mentioned that she was under the impression that extensions had been granted on leases (discussed above), and to date she understood that the Coastal Commission would review proposed lease extensions for consistency review. She is under the impression that it would need to happen by June to be effective. Rebecca Roth also mentioned that the Coastal Commission is still waiting for a judge's final decision on this issue. She will make the date of the hearing available to sanctuary staff and post it to share.

Phyllis Griffman announced she recently went to a meeting at the Aquarium of the Pacific for a workshop on Ocean Communications. The government is behind a California campaign to make people more aware of the oceans and their interaction with the oceans. At the well attended meeting, 75% of attendees came from sanctuaries and they all worked together on what should be messages to provide about the oceans. Another meeting is set to take place on June 15 to discuss ocean communication and messages to be conveyed to society about the oceans. There is still room at these meetings if anyone is interested in participating.

Barbara LaCorte announced that the Channel Islands chapter of the American Cetacean Society just completed its first survey of marine mammals at Coal Oil Point. The survey was conducted by volunteers who surveyed gray whales everyday from 10 to 4 for a little over a three month period, and in total counted 407 gray whales. The survey transect was from Coal Oil point to Santa Cruz Island. Barbara enjoyed volunteering and was able to see a gray whale calf breach 8 times right at the surf line. Hopefully they will do the survey next year and they welcome participation from anyone interested. The dates set for the 2006 surveys are January 28 to May 9th. If you would like to look up the data it is available for viewing on their web site as well as on a web site called "Journey North" at www.journeynorth.com.

Working Group Reports

Conservation Working Group

Greg Helms reported briefly that the Conservation Working Group met on May 18 to review the research and monitoring section of a draft CINMS water quality needs assessment report being developed by intern Sarah Polgar and Research Fellow Shiva Polefka. A SAC presentation on this work is envisioned, when ready. Greg also mentioned that the Conservation Working Group discussed the status of the marine reserve process, the management plan revision process, and other Sanctuary issues. Additionally he mentioned that he has learned recently that an agency review process for the Grace Mariculture Project will be moving forward with the Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency, proceeding under the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Commercial Fishing Working Group

There was no report from the Commercial Fishing Working Group, they have not met recently.

Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

There was no report from the Sanctuary Education Team, they have not met recently.

Research Activities Panel

Dan Brumbaugh reported that the Research Activities Panel had not met since the last SAC meeting, but continues to be open to suggestions from Council members regarding issues that the RAP might take on.

Chumash Working Group

Ricardo Melendez reported that he and Paulette Cabugos have been making contact with several individuals that are or might be interested in joining the Chumash Community Working Group, and that a trip to Santa Cruz Island is being planned for this summer.

Recreational Fishing Working Group

Merit McCrea, Chair of the Recreational Fishing Working Group, reported that the group met on May 17 to discuss the status of the marine reserves environmental review process and associated possible CINMS designation document change, and to view video footage of deep water reef habitats from the Channel Islands region and elsewhere. Concerns raised by members of the working group included the loss of wind data reporting from several local buoys, and concern about the Council's interest in noise impacts possibly extending to fish finding devices [it was subsequently clarified that the SAC has not expressed any concern about such devices; see acoustics report at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/news.html>].

Public Comment

Chris Miller with the California Lobster and Trap Fishermen's Association provided the Council with an update on local and regional work by the lobster fishing industry to improve manageability of the fishery over time. Emphasizing the need for and benefits of a regional fishery management approach, Chris commented that the Santa Barbara Channel area merits management as a regional fishery management unit, and as such the lobster fishery in this area should get some credit for the Channel Islands marine reserves. Chris explained that the fishery now has a transferable permit system, and is leading efforts to reduce its capacity, phase out

permits over time, and place a cap on effort. Chris also stated that he is committed to developing a lobster fishery advisory committee, and that he has made progress in establishing a related science committee through the involvement of individuals such as Hunter Lenihan and Richard Parrish. Finally, Chris stated that he is looking forward to seeing the Collaborative Marine Research Program (see <http://www.cisanctuary.org/cmrrp/index.htm>) gain momentum. Harry Liquornik addressed the Council and formally asked them to consider writing a letter to the Channel Islands National Park and the Department of Fish and Game asking that a clarification be provided with respect to procedures for determining if someone is fishing over the line of a marine reserve, and then if so what process is used for handing it.

Harry explained to the Council that a recent incident at/near the Judith Rock marine reserve stemmed from an on-island Park Ranger (or other individual) sighting an urchin vessel that was believed to be inside the reserve, when in fact (according to Harry) the individual was aware of the reserve boundary and using his GPS to fish along the edge. Next, Harry described, a Coast Guard helicopter was called in and came by the boat, which was then underway, to record its name/numbers etc.

Harry's main point to the SAC was that there is confusion and concern about how on-island individuals are determining if fishermen are in marine reserves, that good faith attempts to fish the line are not being understood, and that more communication between enforcement staff and the fishermen is needed. He mentioned that some time ago a discussion on these matters was started with Patty Wolf of the California Department of Fish and Game, but those talks were not completed.

Harry also described how some of the closed fishery areas in Alaska are handled, explaining that there is an understood sub-zoning that delineates when someone is going to be fully fined for poaching, vs. when they are mistakenly just a little over the line and subject to a lesser ticket, vs. when they are in a gray area that is apparently acknowledged as too close to call.

Discussion among SAC members raised the idea that range markers on the island shores might really help in determining some of the marine reserve boundaries when on the water or on shore. Before opting to write any letters about this, some members of the Advisory Council requested instead that they receive more information about how things are handled with respect to reserve boundary enforcement.

The Chair of the SAC, Dianne Meester, agreed and asked staff to see if the appropriate enforcement officials would be willing to come address this issue and answer questions at the next SAC meeting, which is Friday July 22 in Ventura at the CINP headquarters.

Discussion on Status of Local Weather Buoys

Although not an issue specifically listed on the meeting agenda, there was significant discussion among Council members about non-functioning wind instruments and the loss of long term funding to support the West Channel, Point Conception and Point Arguello buoys. After much discussion, Bill Spicer and Eric Kett volunteered to draft a letter from the Advisory Council to the National Data Buoy Center and bring it to the Advisory Council meeting on July 22 for possible action.

Alex Stone suggested, and others agreed, that it might be good to arrange a presentation to the SAC about the array of local buoys, what they measure, their support and funding status, and other information. Staff will look into this.

Marine Acoustics: CINMS Response to SAC Recommendations

Chris Mobley described efforts and plans that staff has made toward addressing recommendations made by the SAC in Sept. 2004 regarding research, monitoring, partnership and policy suggestions for investigating the issue of noise impacts on sanctuary marine life. Chris made reference to and partially reviewed a handout that was provided to all Council members, briefly summarized as follows:

- Need for ambient acoustic monitoring:
 - Consultations in progress with Dr. John Hildebrand of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography to attempt to build on an existing southern California marine mammal acoustic monitoring project so that it might also record sounds within the CINMS.
 - Initial discussions have begun that are focused on combining Hildebrand's ambient noise monitoring with the Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring and Spatial Analysis Program as well as with new Automated Information System (AIS) vessel tracking in the Santa Barbara Channel.
 - Staff are also learning from the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary's acoustic monitoring being conducted by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and will seek to collaborate.
- Study hearing capabilities of Sanctuary wildlife:
 - Within NOAA this type of research is best led by experts from the NOAA Fisheries Ocean Acoustics Program.
 - CINMS plans to develop a list of sanctuary species and their known hearing ranges from which to build a risk assessment.
- Study anthropogenic noise impacts on Sanctuary ecology and need for research on indirect anthropogenic noise impacts to Sanctuary ecology:
 - Will require a step-wise build out and will be developed after initiating monitoring and understanding hearing capabilities of Sanctuary species.
 - Will learn from studies underway at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (long-term correlations between noise environment and sanctuary ecology)
- Establishment of a vessel traffic-monitoring program:
 - Automated Information System (AIS) project can provide this data (NMSP lead is (Todd Jacobs).
 - Will look into possible calibration of Hildebrand data with AIS data.
- Develop partnerships:
 - Initial discussions about partnership underway with Scripps Institute of Oceanography and NOAA Fisheries Ocean Acoustics Program; Ocean Acoustics Program staff has been very supportive (in particular, Brandon Southall), actively seeking support and funding to further the partnership.
 - Plan to talk with representatives of the Marine Mammal Commission (e.g., Assistant Director David Cottingham) and other potential partners (e.g., Navy, others).
- Engage the shipping industry:

- Initial contact made with Cathy Metcalf, Chamber of Shipping of America (possible future presentation to the Advisory Council).
 - Plan to determine what voluntary best management practices or initiatives the shipping industry is already engaged in.
- Research international policy and regulation:
 - Initiated by UCLA Graduate Student and Sanctuary Intern Angela Haren.
- Create a role for the SAC's Research Activities Panel (RAP):
 - RAP to consider this after receiving presentation(s) on the issue.
 - Other existing scientific bodies should also be considered (e.g., Marine Mammal Commission).

Policy Options for Addressing Marine Acoustic Impacts

UCLA School of Public Affairs graduate student and former CINMS intern Angela Haren (aharen@ucla.edu) provided a presentation about her applied policy project evaluating policy options available for addressing commercial shipping noise impacts to sanctuary resources. After describing project and issue background, Angela explained a decision tree path that her written report documents and analyzes: 1) Should Noise Pollution from Commercial Shipping be Addressed in CINMS? [YES]; 2) Who Should Take the Lead? [CINMS]; What Policy Avenue Should be Pursued? [Sanctuary regulation / Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) / Coordination with the International Maritime Organization].

Regarding the potential for applying Sanctuary regulations to control shipping noise impacts, Angela commented on the current limitations of the CINMS scope of authority to regulate such vessels when they are in the shipping lanes, and the relatively small amount of space and time that these vessels are actually within the CINMS boundary. Angela defined a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) as designated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and explained that CINMS could likely meet the criteria set for PSAA establishment: 1) meets at least one of the IMO's ecological, socioeconomic or scientific criteria; 2) is at risk to the impact of international shipping; and 3) faces problems whose solution is within the scope of the IMO's abilities.

Angela also explained that of the seven PSSAs designated globally to date, none were established for purposes of controlling noise impacts. However, she also commented that because the IMO defines noise emissions from commercial shipping vessels as a pollutant, a PSSA could be established to protect against noise pollution. Regarding working with the IMO in other ways, Angela suggested that the IMO could help with issues such as possibly adjusting the location of shipping lanes, or pushing for ship quieting technologies to be implemented.

Angela concluded that at this time, CINMS should: consider pursuing designation as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area, consider working with NOAA and IMO to promote ship quieting technology, consider Sanctuary level regulations for other sources of noise, and most importantly, immediately institute an acoustic monitoring system by partnering with Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

Council discussion and questions focused on such matters that the effectiveness of PSSAs, experiences in dealing with shipping traffic at other Sanctuaries (e.g., Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary), the appropriateness of considering an adjustment to the shipping lanes in the

Santa Barbara Channel (though this was not proposed by Angela or anyone else), and the importance of monitoring noise levels and sources.

Biogeographic Study of CINMS Region

Chris Caldwell of NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) gave a presentation on the CINMS biogeographic assessment project, set for completion this summer. [Presentation slides are available upon request from chris.caldow@noaa.gov]. Chris explained the project's purpose and provided background information on the two year study, noting that while the primary purpose is to use the findings to assist CINMS and the NMSP in evaluating a series of previously drafted Sanctuary boundary change alternatives (to be addressed/continued in a future supplemental environmental review and public process) that additional benefits of the study findings are numerous (assisting management agencies and scientists, aiding education and outreach efforts, etc.) and will be encouraged and facilitated.

Chris provided an overview of the project's main questions: 1) What data currently exists allowing us to identify regions spatially important to species or communities? 2) Does analysis of the existing data reveal patterns or trends in the distribution of marine associated fauna? 3) Where existing data is insufficient can we model the distribution of selected species to reveal useful distributional information? 4) What can these patterns and trends tell us about the biogeography of the region in general? 5) How do these patterns and trends relate to proposed Sanctuary boundary alternatives?

Chris explained that the study compiled a total of 47 spatially comprehensive datasets, including 10 marine mammal datasets, 3 marine bird datasets, 13 fish datasets, 5 invertebrate datasets, 3 intertidal community datasets, 3 habitat datasets, and 7 physical oceanographic datasets, and proceeded to show data coverage maps from several of these. Chris described that the study compared each of the boundary concepts by using an optimal area index (OAI), which was created as a measure of the extent of a biogeographical feature (or features) that can be encompassed in a given area – the amount of “bang for your are buck” as he termed it.

In terms of overall integrative scoring using the optimal area index, the CINMS management plan study area, as originally recommended by Michael McGinnis, was the top scoring boundary concept, followed by boundary concept 2. Next steps, Chris reported, were to: submit a final draft report to reviewers by the first week in June 2005; then incorporate comments and compile metadata; format the report and send it to the printers. Products coming will be a hardcopy report and a CD that will contain map files, limited data, all associated text and metadata. This summer NCCOS staff will hold meetings with CINMS staff and other interested parties to help users understand the report and how to use the data sets for various purposes.

Council discussion and questions related to: how certain coverages for some species were mapped when complete coverage throughout the study area was not available; how the study results are partially biased simply based on the patchiness of data availability for certain species (e.g., we know more about shallow water species) and the choice of which species to study; the process for adding more data into the model used; limitations on the ability to use recruitment data in the study.

Project Update: CINMS/UCSB Building

Dr. Steve Gaines, Director of the Marine Science Institute at the University of California Santa Barbara, gave a presentation on plans for and progress on construction of an on-campus building that would provide CINMS office space and a marine education center. Steve began by commenting on how for many years UCSB and CINMS have been close partners in research, monitoring and education, and how CINMS is completely out of adequate facility space for its needs.

Steve then described how a UCSB location directly adjacent to the newly constructed Marine Science Institute building has been identified as a good location for construction of both new CINMS office space, as well as to host exhibits on the Channel Islands and an education outreach center. Steve reported that thus far architects have been hired, concept designs and site plan options have been drafted, and initial budgets have been estimated. Highlights of the planned education facilities that Steve described included: a reef-themed touch tank exhibit, and an Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS) [featuring classroom space, “Science on a Sphere” station, and a high-tech 40 person floating “Immersion Theater” capable of supporting live, interactive telepresence communications around the world].

Regarding project funding, Steve explained that \$300,000 was first acquired from NOAA for initial design, then a \$4 million appropriation was provided last year from Congress, and now a \$3 million requested appropriation from Congress is pending. There will likely be a balance due beyond that, and Steve explained that UCSB is confident about meeting the funding needs by exploring a variety of mechanisms and sources.

Council questions and discussion focused on: who would own the building [UCSB to own, NMSP to lease]; how environmentally friendly the building would be [seeking “gold” standard ranking from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)]; accessibility of the education center to school groups and the general public; how long before construction could start [ground breaking possibly as soon as about 2.5 from now]; the need for this building to be approved by the California Coastal Commission; and the Sanctuary’s interest in continuing its presence at the Santa Barbara Harbor.

Public Comment

No one from the public expressed an interest in commenting during the afternoon.

Update on CINMS Marine Protected Area Environmental Review Process

Sean Hastings reported on the status of the phase 2 environmental review process to consider establishment marine reserves and conservation areas within the CINMS. Sean reminded SAC members that at the last meeting he reported that CINMS had sent a consultation letter to 65 agencies regarding the potential for changing of the Sanctuary’s designation document (specifically, the scope of regulatory authority provided to CINMS with regard to fishing activities) if CINMS is to designate marine reserves with Sanctuary regulations. Sean reported that 10 agencies responded to the consultation letter, expressing everything from “this doesn’t affect us” to various concerns.

In particular, Sean explained that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) expressed in writing that they do not want to see an authority change for CINMS that would allow for Sanctuary designation of marine reserves or conservation areas. Similarly, he explained that the State of California said they did not prefer to see such an authority change, unless other options proved to not meet the project's purpose and need. Sean then explained that over the next six to eight weeks NOAA is going to be working internally to analyze both the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and the Magnusen Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and make a determination as to which statute is appropriate for application to the CINMS project.

Sean also explained that CINMS will be sending a consultation package (specifically, an NMSA "304(a)(5)" consultation request) to the PFMC in time for their June meeting, and that the package will ask the PFMC (per terms of the NMSA) if they would like to take the opportunity to draft Sanctuary regulations that can then be incorporated into a forthcoming draft environmental impact statement for alternatives that would require Sanctuary regulations. A response back from the PFMC is expected back by November, if not sooner.

Council questions about this aspect of the process were numerous. A summary of questions and responses provided by Sean Hastings and Chris Mobley includes the following:

- will the NOAA decision on which statute to use (NMSA or MSA) apply to all Sanctuaries? [REPLY: It will be informative to other Sanctuaries but each site will still need to address this question on a case by case basis.]
- What is the state authority on the proposal to extend reserves into federal waters? [REPLY: Several of the existing state marine reserve outer boundaries do not contiguously abut the curved 3-mile state/federal line, leaving small gaps of state waters that would potentially need to become reserve or conservation areas in order to extend these sites into federal waters of the Sanctuary]
- Is it true that if NOAA decides that the MSA is the preferred statute for this, then the CINMS marine reserves process comes to an end? [REPLY: Yes, that could happen.]
- If the NOAA analysis shows that either the NMSA or the MSA could work to meet the Sanctuary's project objectives, then who will decide which statute to use? [REPLY: That would have to be decided at the highest level of NOAA]
- If the CINMS goals for this are not the same as those of the MSA, wouldn't the decision to stick with NMSA authority be an obvious choice? [REPLY: Don't know yet, but cooperation among NOAA offices is expected and important to the agency]

Greg Helms and other members expressed frustration with the possible change in the process (from NMSA to MSA authority) being considered by NOAA after six years of Sanctuary leadership on this issue, and Greg further noted that to break from the Sanctuary at this point would seem very inconsistent with the long process and commitments made by NOAA and the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Chris Mobley explained that he has, and will continue to, point out to NOAA and others that the past and future role of the Sanctuary Advisory Council is very important, and needs to be considered when deciding how the process and any outcome will be handled. He emphasized that in no way does he want to see the Advisory Council's role marginalized to a level where it seems meaningless.

Merit McCrea reminded Council members that originally recreational and commercial fishermen were supportive of CINMS designation because it was not going to regulate fisheries, and thus strong concerns expressed today are a reflection of that fact. Greg Helms suggested, and others agreed, that the SAC find a way to reaffirm (in a letter to the top of NOAA) that this process has been and should remain a Sanctuary Program process. Merit McCrea said, however, that support for that Council position would be hard to obtain from the recreational and commercial fishing seats. Chris Miller let the Council know he has submitted comments to NOAA Fisheries with regard to their plans for establishing essential fish habitat (EFH) that include proposing zoned areas that would extend beyond CINMS and that would ban pelagic fishing and gear contact with the bottom. He told the Council that this seems consistent with the Marine Reserves Working Group process.

Greg Helms offered, and the Council informally agreed, to try drafting a SAC letter to NOAA about this issue, and that he would craft the letter with input from members of the Council that don't share his views. Greg said he would then circulate the letter to all SAC members for review. The draft letter could then be considered for adoption as is, with edits, or not at all at the July 22 SAC meeting. Chris Mobley said if the SAC decides to send a letter on July 22, the timing would be that it should still be considered by upper NOAA before a final decision is made with regard to the NMSA/MSA matter.

Progress Report and Plans for Socioeconomic Monitoring of Marine Reserves

Sean Hastings first provided a brief review of background information relevant to this topic and then introduced Chris LaFranchi, recently contracted Social Science Coordinator for Channel Islands marine protected areas. Chris began by explaining that he is part of the Marine Social Science Consortium, an independent non-commercial group that is working in association with NOAA and researchers.

Chris described his job description as calling on him to: 1) use available data, 2) continue economic modeling, 3) coordinate research, 4) present and outreach, and 5) draft an annual report/strategic plan. With regard to existing social science data related to the CINMS, Chris explained that there is a mixture of good and incomplete information available on commercial fishing (i.e., ex vessel value, distribution of catch, socioeconomic profiles of fisherman, costs, earnings, and investment) and recreational uses (i.e., fishing, consumptive diving charter/party boats, non-consumptive charter/party boats). With regard to information gaps that need to be filled, Chris commented on the following areas: knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions; non-market values; non-consumptive uses; private household consumptive diving and fishing; socioeconomic profiles, recreational users; and nonuse or passive economic value. Chris recapped the previously established socioeconomic goals and objectives pertaining to Channel Islands MPAs. The overall socioeconomic goal is to maintain long-term socioeconomic viability while minimizing short-term losses. Objectives are to provide long-term benefits for all users, minimize and equitably share short-term losses, maintain diversity of uses, and address unavoidable losses.

Chris then explained that the current collection of socioeconomic research and monitoring recommendations contained within the 2004 revised Monitoring Plan for Channel Islands MPAs (see: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/channel_islands/monitoring.html) are valuable but do not

represent a plan, which is needed. He then commented that in order to do his job, he will need the cooperation of CINMS users and he will need to develop a good relationship with the SAC. Critical factors for this, he explained, are trust, transparency, impartiality, and confidentiality, all of which he will strive to earn and uphold. Finally, he described next steps as: 1) implement the socioeconomic research and monitoring recommendations previously developed; 2) hold a summer agency/expert/stakeholder workshop to help move forward on turning the recommendations into a plan for action; 3) engage the Sanctuary Advisory Council in this work, possibly through the formation of a subcommittee.

Comments, questions and discussion by the SAC and from the public focused on: understanding the purpose of the proposed summer workshop [to resume talks on the socioeconomic monitoring recommendations formed in 2003, and work on next steps to take regarding implementation]; various contacts that Chris should consult with [e.g., new Social Science Coordinator with the MPA Center, James Wilen with UC Davis]; and the importance of integrating social and natural sciences as this moves forward.

Greg Helms offered a motion, which was seconded, that a SAC Subcommittee on Social Science be formed for the purposes discussed and consisting of the SAC members that volunteered or were suggested. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Members of the new subcommittee are: Eric Kett (Public At-Large), Merit McCrea (Recreational fishing), Chris Hoeflinger (Commercial fishing), Scott Dunn (Non-consumptive recreation), and Greg Helms (Conservation).

UCSB Bren School Spiny Lobster Project

Sean Hastings announced that CINMS and the California Department of Fish and Game will serve as host clients to a graduate student group from the UCSB Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. The group's project will is aimed at obtaining quantitative information about the recreational lobster fishery in the Santa Barbara Channel and Channel Islands waters. Group members are Geoffrey Ravenhill, Andrew Ma, and Caroline De Zutter.

Geoffrey Ravenhill explained that the group effort will engage many who are interested in spiny lobster fishing as well as its management. The group will specifically do research on the recreational lobster fishery in this area. Geoffrey commented that while there is much information about the commercial lobster fishery, very little data are available on the recreational aspect of the fishery. Geoffrey described the project as aiming to describe the recreational fishery, including its socioeconomic aspects. The group hopes to describe the annual recreational catch of lobster in the Santa Barbara Channel, and plans to create an intercept survey to be conducted at the three major ports in our area during first few weekends of fishery's open season. A second survey will be a mail-in type that will focus on collecting socioeconomic information.

Geoffrey then said that the group is soliciting help, advice, and comments on their project, specifically regarding survey design. They plan to produce a report on the recreational fishery that will include fishery management recommendations. For more information:
<http://fiesta.bren.ucsb.edu/%7Espiny/index.htm>

Future SAC Meetings, Events and Agenda Topics

Mike Murray asked Advisory Council members to review a handout called “2005 SAC Work Plan Status Report” to get a feel for where the Council is at in terms of addressing the sixteen topics of interests agreed to at the beginning of the year. He reminded Council members that the topic list is guiding staff and the Council’s Executive Committee as each meeting agenda is planned.

Dan Brumbaugh requested that a future SAC meeting feature a presentation by staff from the Marine Protected Areas center (Santa Cruz, CA).

Schedule of future SAC meetings & events:

- Friday, July 22, 2005: SAC Meeting, Ventura at the Channel Islands National Park headquarters
- Friday August 5, 2005: Optional trip to attend part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting in Cambria
- Friday, September 23, 2005: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- October 26-28, 2005: Two-night SAC Retreat to Santa Cruz Island (staff will also try to provide a one night option for those that need it)
- Friday, November 18, 2005: SAC Meeting, Ventura

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:

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